(b) Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 strictly stipulates that the fertilizers which meet the standards of quality laid down in the Order are only allowed to be manufactured/imported in the country and sold to the farmers. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against those found indulged in production and sale of non standard fertilizers under the provisions of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985/Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Increase in the milk prices

1998. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that milk is the best to recover from physical exercise of day long labour by the poor;

(b) if so, whether Government, on the other hand, are regularly increasing the cost of milk in the Capital to the disadvantage of the common people; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The milk is considered as a wholesome food and not a source of instant energy. However, it is best-suited food for people doing physical exercise/day long labour.

(b) Milk prices in the Capital are decided by various organizations like Mother Dairy, Delhi Milk Scheme, State Federations, private suppliers depending upon their costs of production and procurement.

(c) The Government is regularly reviewing the availability of milk and recently banned export of milk powder to ensure availability of adequate quantity of milk at reasonable prices.

India's position in agricultural production

†1999: SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the position India occupies at present in the field of agricultural production in the world;

(b) the position of India in terms of production of wheat, rice, cotton and pulses in the world;

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government during the two years of 2007-08 and 2008-09 to make India a frontline country in the field of agricultural production;

(d) whether Government have adequate stock of foodgrains; and

(e) if not, the reasons which are responsible for this shortage of foodgrains, and the steps proposed to be taken to meet this shortage?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Following table gives the details of the position India occupied in 2005 (latest available year) in the field of agricultural production in terms of some major crops in the world:

Crop	India's Position	Next to
Paddy	Second	China
Wheat	Second	China
Maize	Sixth	USA, China, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico
Chick Peas (Gram)	First	-
Groundnut	Second	China
Rapeseed and Mustard	Third	China and Canada
Soyabean	Fifth	USA, Brazil, Argentina and China
Sugarcane	Second	Brazil
Cottonseed	Third	China and USA
Onion	Second	China
Potato	Third	China and Russian Federation

SOURCE: FAO website accessed on 28.08.2007

(c) The Government of India has initiated two schemes for increasing foodgrains production and improving the agricultural growth in the country. These are (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for Rice, Wheat and Pulses, and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS). Under National Food Security Mission provisions have been made to promote improved production technologies like hybrids, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), resource conservation technologies, integrated nutrient, pest and weed management and farm implements. Besides, the seed minikits of newly released varieties would be provided to the farmers free of cost for popularization of high yielding varieties. Under ACAS, States would be incentivised to draw up plans for their agriculture sector more comprehensively. The Scheme aims at closing the gap that exists between actual yields and the potential yields for the relevant crops in a State.

(d) and (e) Against the buffer norm of 98 lakh tonnes of rice and 171 lakh tonnes of wheat as on 1st July, 126.141akh tonnes of rice and 133.08 lakh tonnes of wheat were in the stocks in central pool as on 1st June 2007. The stock of wheat was less owing to low procurement because of low market arrivals and high private participation in procurement. The Government has decided to import the required quantity of wheat but upto 50 lakh tonnes during 2007-08. There is no proposal to import rice.